

Child and Family Services



Purpose Child welfare and juvenile justice services are services and interventions for children, youth, and families, designed to improve safety, permanency, well-being, and community safety.

Who Is Helped

Child welfare services are provided to children and families who are either at risk of abuse or who have experienced abuse and have been adjudicated a child in need of assistance. In addition, services are available to youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system and are employed or going to school.

A majority of children who have been abused are five years old or younger and are victims of denial of critical care.

In SFY15, 28,829 children were at risk and/or were abused. Of those 7,403 (26 percent) were the victims of abuse and received child welfare services.

Differential Response (DR) is a child welfare approach in which one of two pathways, family assessment or child abuse assessment, is assigned to accepted allegations of child abuse based on risk associated with child abuse and neglect.

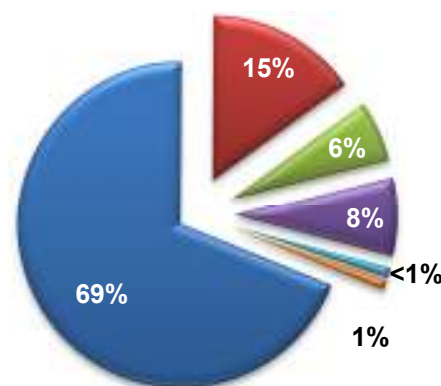
- Low risk families receive a family assessment and high risk families receive a child abuse assessment.
- Safety and a recommendation for services occur in both types of assessments.
- Child abuse assessments result in a finding of abuse and possible placement on the central abuse registry.
- In SFY15, 18,710 (65%) of accepted allegations received a child abuse assessment and 10,119 (35%) received a family assessment.

An average of 362 youth per year age out of the foster care system. An average of 297 youth have accessed Aftercare services for life skills training and limited financial support.

Federal law enacted September 29, 2014, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, requires identification and services to victims and children at risk. Implementation will occur no later than September 29, 2015.

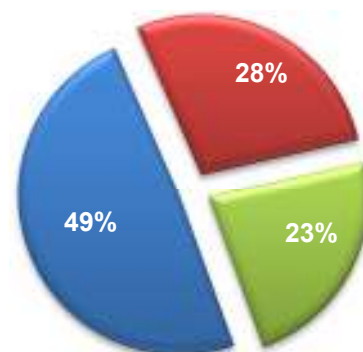
Type of Abuse SFY15

- Denial of critical care / neglect (69%)
- Physical abuse (15%)
- Sexual abuse (6%)
- Presence of illegal drugs (8%)
- Exposure to manufacturing meth (<1%)
- Allows access to registered sex offender (1%)



Abuse by Age SFY15

- 5 or younger (49%)
- 6 to 10 (28%)
- 11 and older (23%)

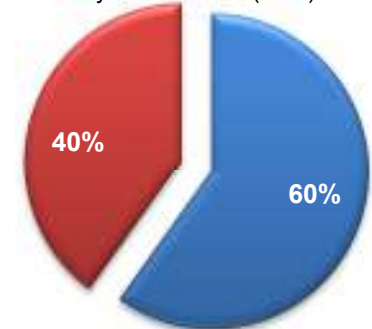


Juvenile justice services are provided to children and their families if they are either at risk of continued delinquent behavior, have committed a delinquent act and have been adjudicated as a delinquent, or have been certified by the chief juvenile court officer as eligible for court-ordered services.

In SFY15, Juvenile Court Services (JCS) received 15,996 referrals against juveniles. Less than 23 percent of these referrals resulted in a formal request for a delinquency petition. A vast majority were resolved through provision of services without court involvement.

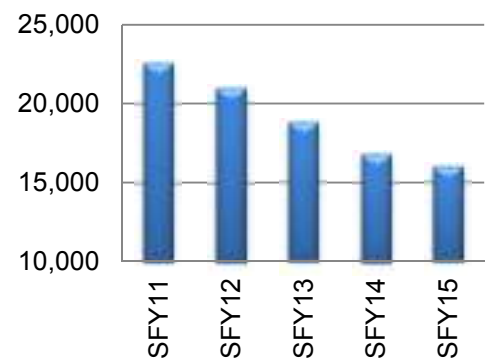
Differential Response Assessments SFY15*

- Child Abuse Assessment (60%)
- Family Assessment (40%)



*Note: Based on number of assessments completed rather than number of abuse allegations referred for each type of assessment

Referrals to Juvenile Court Services



- ✓ *Parents of children who are at risk and/or experience neglect often have mental health, substance abuse, or domestic violence challenges.*
- ✓ *Of founded abuse cases in SFY15, seven percent were sexual abuse, compared to nine percent nationally (Child Maltreatment data 2013).*
- ✓ *70 percent of the youth who had violations on or before the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year had no new law violations by the end of the school year.*

Services

Child Welfare Services protect children, and preserve and strengthen families through the least intrusive, least restrictive means possible.

Services include:

Early intervention and prevention services such as Community Care and Decategorization services strengthen families by building on the family's resources and developing supports in the community.

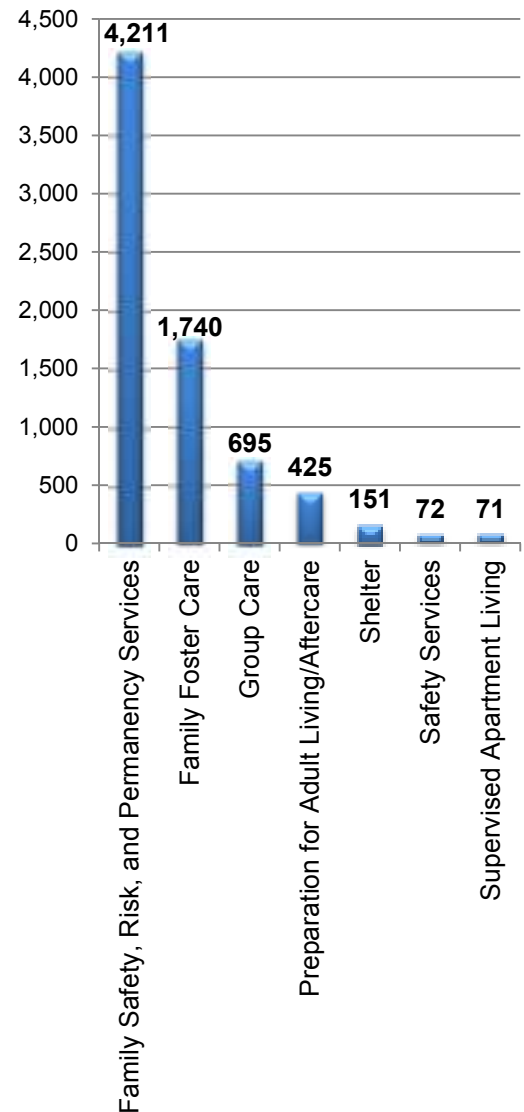
In-home services improve parenting skills to safely maintain the child in the home.

- There are 11 family centered providers that served 4,283 families in SFY15. The 4,283 included 72 Safety Plan Services provided during child abuse assessments and 4,211 Family, Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services (FSRP) provided to DHS eligible cases.

Out of home services provide a safe environment when a child is not able to remain in the home or able to live with an extended family member. Services are provided to address both the parents' needs and the needs of the child.

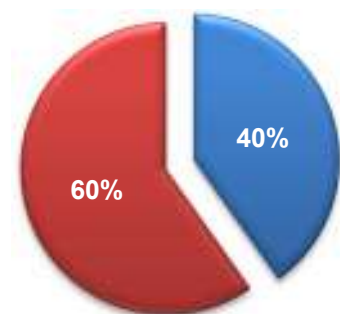
- The Parent Partners program provides peer mentoring for families in the child welfare system in order to improve engagement between families and the system, shorten lengths of stay for children in care, and maximize available community supports and services to reduce family re-entry into the child welfare system. Following program expansion in SFY14, there is now a parent partner presence statewide.
- Family foster care services are designed to provide a temporary safe environment while parents are addressing the issues that put the children at-risk.
 - There are 2,129 foster families. In SFY15, 1,740 children were served on average each month in family foster care.
- Foster group care services are designed to treat children whose behavior is too severe to enable them to live safely in a less restrictive setting like a foster home.
 - There are 15 group care contractors with 1,217 available beds located statewide.
 - Both DHS and JCS utilize foster group care services.
 - In SFY15, DHS placed 581 children in group care, while JCS placed 866.

Average Number of Clients Served Monthly by Program in SFY15



Group Care Total Served in SFY15

■ DHS (40%) ■ JCS (60%)

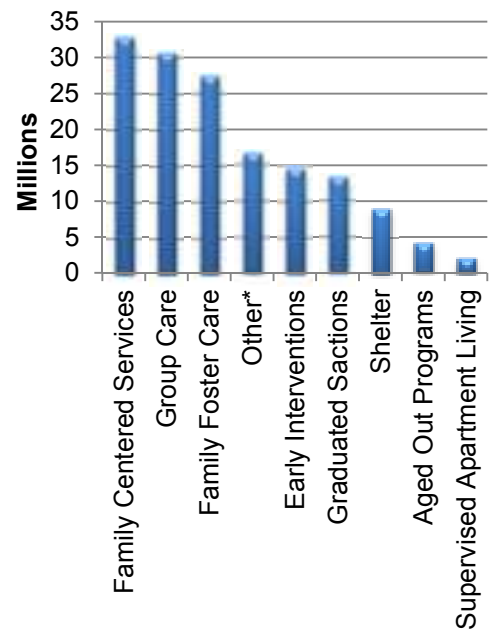


- Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) is an array of short term and temporary interventions that range from the least restrictive approaches that can be used to avoid out-of-home placement (e.g., family conflict mediations or in-home interventions) to more restrictive services including emergency juvenile shelter care.
 - There are 13 CWES contractors that offer 16 CWES juvenile shelters. These contracts provide for 256 beds although additional beds can be purchased up to the maximum number licensed (currently 357).
 - Both DHS and JCS utilize CWES.
- Transition services support youth age 18-21 who aged out of foster care. Emphasis is placed on life skills, housing, employment, education, budgeting, and relationships. Youth receive individualized services from case managers, called Self Sufficiency Advocates.
 - A network of nine child welfare providers comprise the Iowa Aftercare Services Network, providing services to 453 youth monthly.
- State legislation enacted in 2014 added funds to expand aftercare to youth aging out of detention and the State Training School for Boys. In SFY15, this funding extended services to an additional 116 youth. SFY15 funding also allowed children placed at the State Training School campus the opportunity to be involved in the foster care youth council (Achieving Maximum Potential). SFY16 funding continues to support both of these changes.

Juvenile Justice Services ensure public safety by addressing delinquent behaviors.

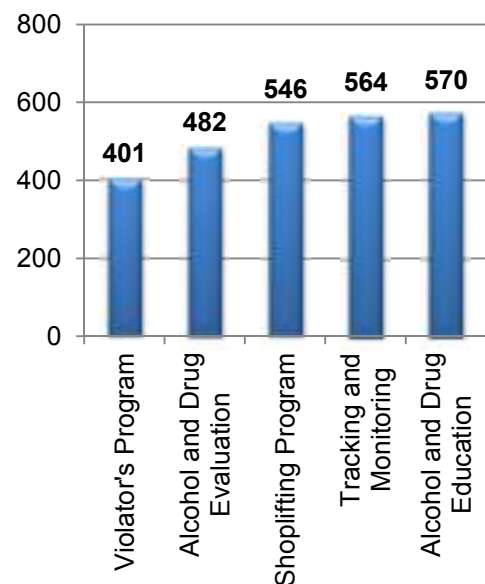
- Graduated Sanctions include four specific service programs: life skills; school-based supervision; supervised community treatment; tracking and monitoring, and outreach.
 - There are 168 graduated sanctions contracts with community providers to provide the services listed above.
 - Juvenile Court/School Liaisons are located in 105 Iowa schools within 74 school districts.
 - Tracking and monitoring services are provided by 18 social service agencies.
 - 564 tracking and monitoring cases closed in SFY15.

Child Welfare Dollars by Program SFY15



*Other expenditures include the child abuse hotline, medical exams for children potentially abused, & training

Top Five Juvenile Justice Services Completed in SFY15



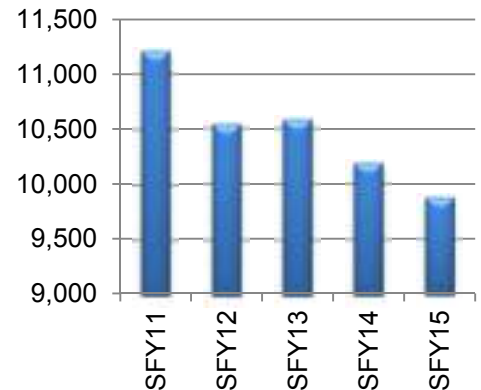
- Out of home services include foster care, detention, and the State Training School in Eldora.
 - Youth needing out of home care utilize the foster care services described in child welfare services above.
 - Ten Iowa detention centers provide services to an average 111 youth per day. These centers provide temporary care in a restrictive manner designed to ensure continued custody of the child until final disposition of the child's case.
 - The State Training School houses an average 116 delinquent boys daily.

Medicaid Behavioral Intervention Services

(BHIS) are available, in addition to child welfare and juvenile justice services, for eligible children to improve social and behavioral functioning.

- BHIS are provided by a network of 76 providers many of whom also provide other child welfare and juvenile justice services.

Total Children Served in Out of Home Services



- ✓ In SFY15, 4,803 parents/adults received services targeted to children at-risk of abuse.
- ✓ In SFY15, 75 percent of child victims remained in their home while receiving services to ensure safety.
- ✓ Approximately 34 percent of children who are removed from their home are in the care of an extended family member.
- ✓ In SFY14, 94 percent of youth participating in aftercare reported having a safe and stable place to live. 94 percent reported having one or more supportive relationships.
- ✓ State legislation in calendar year 2015 (SF 412) allows juvenile court services to continue past age 18, if a youth has not finished treatment by the time they reach that age and are no longer subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- ✓ The number of group care beds is capped and the DHS Service Area Managers and the Chief Juvenile Court Officers jointly manage group care resources.

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Children will be safe from abuse.

Strategies:

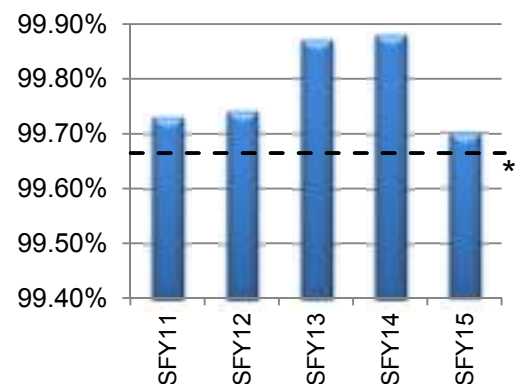
- Provide best practice information and training to keep children safe from abuse.
- Enhance engagement with families to increase service provision.

Goal: Children will achieve permanency.

Strategies:

- Collaborate with court partners to align language and practices for ensuring child safety.
- Provide statewide family team decision making for all children who cannot remain safely in their home.

Children Safe from Maltreatment in Foster Care



*National Benchmark 99.68%

- If a child must be removed for safety reasons, attempt to reunify quickly to a safe environment.
- Provide supports to assist the family and child while empowering family decision-making.

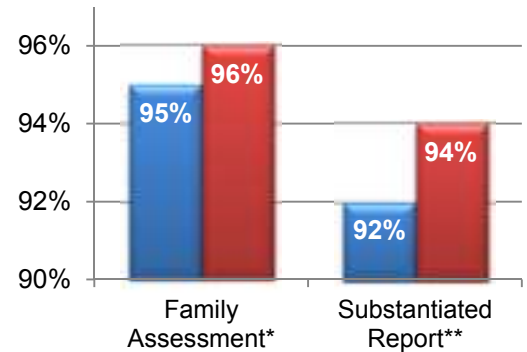
Goal: Children will experience a positive sense of well-being.

Strategies:

- Continue systemic training activities related to the effect of early childhood trauma on growth and development.
- Continue work on disproportionality of minority children and youth in the child welfare/juvenile justice system.
- Continue efforts to increase educational stability.

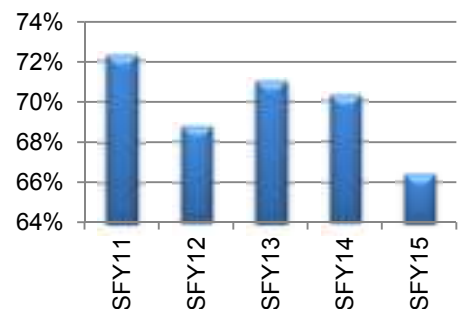
Safe from Abuse or Neglect

■ Jan to June 2014 ■ July to Dec 2014



Children who do not experience a substantiated report within 6 months of a family assessment* or substantiated report**.

Reunified Within 12 Months*



*National Benchmark 75.2%

- ✓ *DHS has established performance based contracts with child welfare providers that align with Children and Family Services federal outcomes.*
- ✓ *Iowa has a strong public/private partnership who recognizes that collaboration and shared accountability will lead to positive outcomes for our children and families.*
- ✓ *In SFY15, 3 percent of Children and Family Services funding is used for prevention.*
- ✓ *In SFY15, 229 participants from diverse backgrounds were trained on Race: The Power of Illusion.*

Legal Basis

Federal:

- Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, and under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
- The Federal government sets specific requirements and performance expectations, which are measured through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Under the CFSR, states are expected to meet national standards on 7 outcomes related to child safety, permanency, and well-being. (45 CFR 1355.32-37)
- Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapters 233, 232B, 233, 234, 235, 235A, 237, 237B, and 238